

From: Editor, News and Publications Department

7th September 1976

Subject: STANDARDISATION: MEETING 24.8.76

To: Chief Editor, FBIS London Bureau

Copies: Deputy Chief, FBIS
London Bureau;
H.R.D.M.S.

1. The meeting was attended by Messrs. [redacted]

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2. The committee noted FBIS-BBC agreement that no further consideration should be given to the suggestion, originated by FBIS Okinawa, that each should use the other's editing for publication. Figures produced by FBIS had shown the percentage of SWB items published in the same form by the Daily Report to be too small to be useful.

3. The committee considered matters raised in [redacted] letter of 6th July 1976 to Art Melli, which commented upon its Sourcing Standardisation Proposal appended to [redacted] letter of 31st March 1976 to [redacted]

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4. The committee agreed to substitute the following under Proposal I Basic Principles (1):

"A sourceline should contain no information that is not available from station announcements, programme content, technical observations, or from official schedules or other published material verified by observation."

5. The committee agreed to delete from Proposal II General Rules (2) (5) and (8) the phrases: "... or if asked to do so by the other"; and further that triple asterisks at the close of each of these paragraphs should indicate the following Note at the bottom of Page 3 of the Proposal:

"It is accepted that every effort should be made to limit the number of discrepant sourcelines resulting from this provision."

6. (i) The BBC will supply as soon as possible the list referred to in para. 7 of [redacted] letter. (ii) The BBC agrees to the word order which [redacted] recommends in the same paragraph of his letter for FBIS sourcelines which are to include name of country.

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7. The committee discussed paragraph 9 of [redacted] letter at some length. It doubts that "all" radio stations now categorised as "clandestine" announce or imply that they are broadcasting from within the target country. The committee asks for evidence supporting the assertion that this is so.

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8. The committee discussed the penultimate paragraph of Mr. Zimmer's letter. The BBC suggested that the phrase "radio teletype" be substituted for "press-service", observing that in US usage the word "press" is ambiguous and that in British usage it does not refer to news agencies.

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9. The committee agreed not to meet again until FBIS Headquarters had responded to the outcome of this meeting.

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